

Prayers for the week beginning Monday 4th December 2023

Lord, as we move into the first week of Advent we look forward with HOPE.

Monday December 4th

We give you thanks Lord for sending Jesus to be born into our humanity, to share in our joys and sorrows and bring us Hope through His death on the cross. You understand our needs and we thank you that you are always there for us.

Tuesday 5th

We pray for our broken world and for you, once again, to step into it in the power of your Holy Spirit with a message of Hope. Hope for those who are suffering as a result of the brutality of war, natural disaster, famine which has turned their world upside down and in many cases left them homeless and bereaved.

Wednesday 6th

The COP28 summit is now underway in the UAE and we pray for all those involved especially those who have the power to make significant changes. We pray that world leaders will grasp the urgency for change even though it may cause some disruption and hardship in the short term.

Thursday 7th

We pray for people in the more deprived countries of our world who are seriously affected by climate change because of ignorance, greed and indifference of those who live in relative luxury in the West. Please forgive us Lord because we cannot divorce ourselves from blame. Help us to do what we can to bring about change and a vision of Hope for the future.

Friday 8th

We give you thanks Lord for all the initiatives and scientific developments that are in progress which will enable us to make 'greener' choices now and in the future. Inspire us to do what we can to change our own lives for the better and make our voices heard as we fight for the future of the generations to come.

Saturday 9th

We pray Lord for all those who don't yet know you. There are many who are struggling to pay rent and feed families and are anxious and fearful of the future. There are others suffering from mental illness, addictions and despair. We ask that as your witnesses we can step out in faith to be more proactive in telling others about the love of Jesus.

Sunday 10th

Today is the second Sunday in Advent and the theme is PEACE. This Advent and Christmas all the lights that are normally illuminated to adorn the birthplace of Jesus (Bethlehem) will remain unlit. This action is in memory of all those who have been wounded and killed during the devastating, current conflict. The URC has opted to stand with those suffering in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territory by leaving the Advent candle for this Sunday unlit. We pray, Lord, for peace and harmony between the warring parties. We ask that you will be with those who are mourning their loved ones and bring them comfort and peace and HOPE for the future.